


The effective date of Seed et al. is June 7, 1995. Applicants submit herewith an executed Rule 131 Declaration from the Inventors of the present application. As stated at paragraph 6, the DNA sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 of the above-identified application was cloned, sequenced, and expressed prior to June 7, 1995 (see page 3 of the Declaration). As described in paragraphs 7-15, Exhibits 1-5 attached to the Declaration provide evidence of the same. According, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

In the response filed on September 11, 2002 an incorrect version of the Declaration was filed as signed by Kevin M. Gersten. That version of the Declaration only referred to Exhibits 1-3.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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